

The Brooklyn Paper

Including Brooklyn Heights Paper, Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill Paper, Downtown News, Fort Greene-Clinton Hill Paper and the DUMBO Paper

A Brooklyn
Publication

Published every Saturday — online all the time — by Brooklyn Paper Publications Inc., 55 Washington St., Suite 624, Brooklyn NY 11201. Phone 718-834-9350 • www.BrooklynPapers.com • © 2006 Brooklyn Paper Publications • 18 pages • Vol. 29, No. 39 DTZ • Saturday, October 7, 2006 • FREE



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— with Dana Rubinstein

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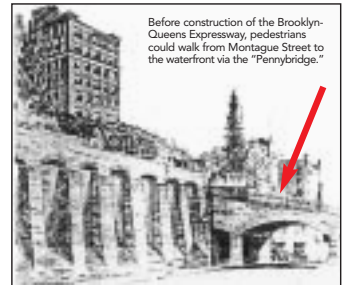
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Diamondstone ballot fight cost \$100K

By Gersh Kuntzman

The Brooklyn Papers

Here's a cautionary tale for anyone hoping to challenge an incumbent lawmaker: one such challenger spent \$102,000 in legal fees just to get on the ballot.

The challenger, Ken Diamondstone (right), was forced to dig into his deep pockets after longtime state Sen. Marty Connor (D-Brooklyn Heights) got him knocked off the ballot on the grounds that Diamondstone did not move into the district long enough before Election Day.

The challenger's \$350-an-hour lawyer Aaron Maslow got him back on the ballot, but not at a few billable hours, but Connor appealed the decision.

By the time the dust had cleared, Diamondstone's name was again on the ballot — but his campaign coffers were \$102,000 poorer, campaign finance filings show.

Connor, who, conveniently enough, is one of the state's top election lawyers, saved money by representing himself. His co-counsel, Henry Berger, another top election lawyer, who donated his legal services to his friend Connor.

"How can anyone challenge an incumbent, let alone an incumbent who is not only an election lawyer, but gets one of the best election lawyers to donate his services?" Diamondstone asked.

Connor was hardly sympathetic: "Wow, he [Diamondstone] really had an expensive lawyer, didn't he?"

And Connor refused to accept Diamondstone's contention that the legal battle shows how difficult it is to fight an incumbent — especially one who knows election law so well.

"I have no idea if anyone will be deterred from running [because of ballot challenges]," Connor said. "All I know is that Ken spent an extraordinary amount on the case. Maybe he paid Republican prices."

Connor expressed the same amount of sympathy earlier in the month at a meeting of the Independent Neighborhood Democrats, his political club. As Diamondstone told club members about his large legal fees, Connor stood in the back and clapped loudly.

"It was absolutely disgusting," and I supported Marty during the primary," said one club member who was at the Sept. 21 meeting. "Everyone in the club was repulsed by his childishness and poor sportsmanship."

He wasn't the only one exhibiting it. Before last month's primary election, at least six challengers were thrown off the ballot for "minor" election law infractions, said Dick Dadey, executive director of a Citizens Union, which fights for election law reform.

Dadey called Connor's appeal of the court ruling that put Diamondstone back on the ballot "unacceptable."

"He just wanted to drain Diamondstone of funds," Dadey said. "And the larger issue of a challenger's difficult route to the ballot — was not lost on Dadey."

"Ballot access is too cumbersome for challengers," he said. "You have to have a lot of money just to get on the ballot. That's not right."

Diamondstone spent close to \$500,000 on his race for the Brooklyn and Lower Manhattan seat, which he lost by a 55 percent to 45 percent vote — but he did carry Brooklyn.

The Park Slope Paper

Including Windsor Terrace, Sunset Park, Midwood, Kensington, Ocean Parkway Papers

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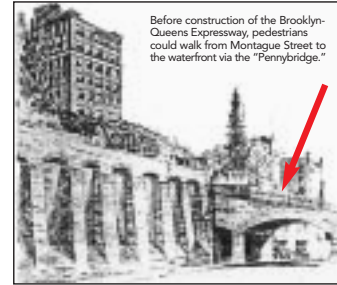
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Who's stealing Park Slopers' little Hondas?

By Dana Rubinstein

The Brooklyn Papers

Who is stealing Park Slope's humble Hondas?

After 11 Honda Civics — most of them dating from the 1990s — disappeared from the streets of Park Slope during two larcenous weeks in September, speculation has been running rampant from the neighborhood's coffee shops to its body shops.

Four cars have since been recovered, but whether the others are now stripped-down metal hulks or Third-World jalopies is anybody's guess. And everybody's guessing.

"Some could be for joy-riding, some could be for parts," said Captain John Scalfidi, commanding officer of the 78th Precinct, which handed over the disappearing Honda files to the city's crime units.

"There's no one theory that we're going on."

The same holds true for local gearheads.

"One of my customers had a '91 Honda Civic with a book value of negative \$10 that was stolen, and he thought it might have been stolen for street-racing," said a mechanic from Parkside Auto Repair on Union Street, who didn't particularly share his customer's opinion.

"Some Third-World country may need parts for all these Honda Civics. As far as street-racing, Honda Civics are as good as any other vehicle. If the parts are free, why not?"

Of course, the parts aren't really free — at least not for the former owners of the cars, some of whom bought the wheels from Plaza Honda.

John Marino, the sales manager of the Flatbush franchise, put a decidedly positive spin on the state of Honda thefts.

"The Honda Civic is the highest

value resale car out there," said Marino, clearly not the most objective of sources. "People look to steal the parts because it's a good car."

This isn't just a Park Slope phenomenon.

In 2005, the most commonly stolen car in New York State was the 1990 Toyota Camry, with the 1992 Honda Accord and 1993 Honda Civic coming in second and third, according to the National Insurance Crime Bureau, a non-profit that partners with insurance companies and law enforcement agencies.

"Hondas are stolen all the time because there's always a need for replacement parts," said Frank Scalfidi, an NICB spokesman.

While Scalfidi said the black market in spare parts is far and away the number one reason for Honda thefts, he also mentioned two other possibilities: "They are sometimes exported as complete units, or owners themselves will dispose of them so that they can make a fake theft report."

"If would be great if these boneheads would use that kind of initiative and creativity solving some of the problems of the world," lamented Scalfidi.

Nationwide, 1.2 million cars were stolen last year — 500,000 were never recovered.

For those Honda Civic owners concerned about the trend, Scalfidi suggested they stop by the Flatbush Avenue street fair on Sunday after 11 a.m.

"Our crime prevention unit will be signing car owners up for auto-related crime prevention programs," said Scalfidi, whose precinct will set up a table at the corner of Sixth and Flatbush avenues.

It's not a bad idea. You can even drive over in your Civic. There'll be plenty of officers around to protect it.

The Bay Ridge Paper

Including The Bensonhurst Paper

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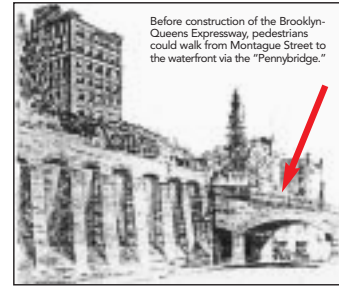
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Ex-Soviet won't concede Dyker seat

By Dana Rubinstein

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The Board of Elections said this week that the razor-close race between two former Soviets for a Dyker Heights Assembly seat is officially over — but that hasn't stopped the loser from fighting on.

According to the vote count certified this week, Alec Brook-Krasny, the Moscow-born head of the Jewish Emigre Community Organization, edged out his former countryman Ari Kagan by a mere 143 votes in the Sept. 12 Democratic primary.

But Kagan, a Minsk-born reporter for the Russian Jewish Forward newspaper, isn't acknowledging defeat. Instead, he's alleging election fraud.

"I did not concede the election," Kagan told The Brooklyn Papers. "I am still talking to my lawyers, and we are considering legal action."

"We are aware of too many irregularities and violations of election law, and we have to provide justice for the Democrats who wanted to vote, but could not."

Kagan would not elaborate on the alleged electoral shenanigans, but his campaign manager offered a few choice tidbits.

"Poll-watchers were thrown out of polls, levers were pulled without people's permission, voters were intimidated," said Gayle Shaw. "A lot of the Russians said it was like voting in a Third-World country."

When The Brooklyn Papers asked Brook-Krasny for a reaction, he simply laughed and said, "No comment."

Then he commented. "I really don't know what Kagan is talking about," he said. "Every registered Democrat who wanted to vote was able to vote."

Then, Brook-Krasny reiterated



Alec Brook-Krasny

his charges that Kagan was once a Communist party member.

"I don't believe the hell," Kagan retorted. "I will not dignify any more of his statements with my response. End of story."

For his part, Brook-Krasny doesn't seem too concerned.

"I feel great," said Brook-Krasny. His immediate plans include opening an office in Bay Ridge and campaigning for the Nov. 7 general election.

"Even though people are saying I don't really have Republican opposition, I think I do."

As a matter of fact (and election law), he does.

Bay Ridge Patricia Laudano is running on the Republican line, although insiders say she doesn't stand a chance.

"The district is 80 percent Democrat, so it's unlikely she can get more than 20 percent of the vote," said Marty Levine, a Coney Island activist who was once a candidate for the seat, but withdrew during the Kagan-Brook-Krasny mudfest.

"Quite a lot of Russian emigres are Republicans, but they will cross over to vote for Brook-Krasny."



**RATNER
COUNT-UP**

7

DAYS
SINCE WE FORMALLY
REQUESTED AN
INTERVIEW WITH
BRUCE RATNER
(As of Saturday, Oct. 7)

Many problems with Atlantic Yards

The Brooklyn Papers

The 73-day public comment period for Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards project ended after we went to press last week — and the Sept. 29 deadline brought about a flurry of reports, analyses and submissions from project opponents and supporters.

Below are summaries of some key points of disagreement between opponents of Atlantic Yards and the Empire State Development Corporation, the state agency which is expected to approve the 16-tower, residential, arena, hotel and office space development.

We asked the ESDC to comment on the opponents' specific objections, but the agency issued a general statement, saying it would "take into consideration all recommendations and comments received regarding the Atlantic Yards project."

See editor's note about last week's coverage, page 13.

Bruce's green acre

The Brooklyn Papers

The big news last week was a city request that Bruce Ratner cut the size of three Atlantic Yards skyscrapers by 28-44 percent.

But lost in the shuffle was another demand by the City Planning Commission: that Ratner add one acre of open public space to the project, which currently includes seven acres of publicly accessible greenery.

Here's one possible reason why few New Yorkers noticed the demand for an additional acre: Few New Yorkers know what an acre even is.

As any farmboy knows, an acre is 4,840 square yards. By comparison, a football field, a common measurement of area during the fall months, is 6,400 square yards.

A quick review of the Parks Department's emerald empire reveals that even small playgrounds are more than a piddling little acre. For example, Chumley Corner, which is a mound of grass near the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway in DUMBO, is 1.46 acres; the tiny Bartel-Pritchard Square in Park Slope is 1.71 acres; Dean Playground in Prospect Heights is 1.3 acres; Carroll Park in Carroll Gardens is 1.87 acres; Russell Pederson Playground in Bay Ridge is 1.43 acres; and Dyker Heights Playground is 1.18 acres.



A composite image of Bruce Ratner, Ava Gabor and Arnold

And Gotham Gazette recently pointed out that putting 15,000 residents into the Atlantic Yards project would actually reduce, per capita, the overall greenspace in the surrounding neighborhood — even with the Planning Commission's gorgeous new acre.

Currently, there are 28 acres of public parkland per thousand people in the half-mile area around Atlantic Yards. If the project is built, that ratio drops to 15 acres per thousand people.

So much for "land spreadin'" out so far and wide," as Eddie Albert sang in the "Green Acres" theme song.

Keep Manhattan, just give us that country-side. — Gersh Kuntzman

The project's hidden costs

The Brooklyn Papers

The state analysis of the Atlantic Yards project "ignores hundreds of millions of dollars in additional costs to taxpayers, including property-tax exemptions, sales tax exemptions, tax-exempt financing, publicly financed infrastructure improvements, taxpayer-furnished affordable-housing subsidies and mortgage recording tax exemptions for developer Bruce Ratner, according to an analysis commissioned by a coalition of Brooklyn neighborhood groups.

According to the Council of Brooklyn Neighborhoods, the shortfall in the state's draft environmental impact statement amounts to more than \$600 million in unreported public costs.

And that's not including

\$138 million to build new schools to handle the current "insufficient capacity" that's acknowledged by the DEIS.

In addition, the analysis said the state didn't even bother to put a price tag on "qualitative" impacts of

the project, such as traffic, shadows and increased air pollution. The CBN said those costs would equal \$76 million.

An analysis by Community Board 2 echoed the CBN finding, calling the state's economic numbers for the project "insufficiently proven."

"The type of financial information necessary for public evaluation [of the state's rosy economic scenario] is not included in the general project plan and DEIS," the CB2 report read. — Ariella Cohen

Even the Beep sees flaws

The Brooklyn Papers

The state agency overseeing the Atlantic Yards project failed to consider alternative proposals — as required — and skewed the development process in favor of Forest City Ratner, a community group said last week.

Just before the close of the public-comment period last week, Jeff Baker — an attorney for Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn — said the state's draft environmental impact statement also "audaciously ignored" prior discussion of Coney Island as the city's "preferred location" for an arena.

"Empire State Development Corporation ... consciously mischaracterized the ability to locate the arena there," Baker said.

His testimony also accused the ESDC of dismissing as flawed a development plan produced by Estell.

thus fails to accurately show the distributions on either side of middle," the project's biggest booster said.

Testimony submitted by South Brooklyn Legal Services, which is representing many soon-to-be-displaced tenants, questioned the project's role in further gentrifying the surrounding area.

The group claimed that despite the 2,250 units of below-market-rate housing, the project would actually cause a 6-percent drop in the proportion of households earning between \$20,069 and \$35,450 and a 16-percent decrease in the proportion of households earning between \$42,540 and \$70,900. The proportion of households earning more than \$113,440 would more than double. — Ariella Cohen

By numbers

The Brooklyn Papers

The public-comment period on the Atlantic Yards project ended last week and the Empire State Development Corporation is sifting through thousands of pages of submissions from the public. Here's how it all went down:

• 1 — Number of "public hearings"

• 2 — Number of "community forums"

• 15 — Number of hours of the hearing and the forums combined

• 201 — Number of people who publicly testified

• 712 — Number of pages of transcript they generated

• 99 — Number of pro-project speakers

• 88 — Number of anti-project speakers

• 4 — Number of speakers described by state officials as "neutral or indecipherable."

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Group: City said Coney was best

for The Brooklyn Papers

The state agency overseeing the Atlantic Yards project failed to consider alternative proposals — as required — and skewed the development process in favor of Forest City Ratner, a community group said last week.

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"Empire State Development Corporation ... consciously mischaracterized the ability to locate the arena there," Baker said.

His testimony also accused the ESDC of dismissing as flawed a development plan produced by Estell.

If Estell's plan was flawed, Baker said, it was only because the state denied Estell information it needed to prepare its proposal until shortly before the proposals were due.

"[ESDC's] analysis of the Estell plan... reflects the predisposition to assist FCR," wrote Baker.

He claimed that FCR had sole access to MTA property and documents months before Estell had a chance to see them. — Christie Risk

School dazed

The state's analysis of the impact of the Atlantic Yards project on area schools is seriously flawed because it relies on outdated data, according to a local school official. Here is a comparison between the Atlantic Yards draft environmental impact statement and the reality at selected schools in the area.

Elementary schools	Enrollment in DEIS*	Actual enrollment**	Percent difference
PS 11	486	510	4.7 percent
PS 133	261	286	8.7 percent
PS 282	576	660	12.7 percent
PS 38	472	507	6.9 percent
High schools			
ACORN HS	661	730	9.5 percent
Brooklyn Tech	4,075	4,300	5.2 percent
Metropolitan Corporate Academy	369	455	19 percent

* Data in DEIS is from 2004. ** Data from current school year. Source: Testimony of Mary-Powell Thomas, president, District 15 Community Education Council

Little open space

for The Brooklyn Papers

Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards project will result in less, not more, open space per person in a community already underserved by park and recreational land, several community groups said last week.

The area already suffers from "an extreme deficiency of open space in the study areas," according to the state's draft environmental impact statement.

But the Council of Brooklyn Neighborhoods argued that Atlantic Yards' seven acres of open space — coupled with the projected 15,000 new residents — will actually be a net loss for the community.

"Open-space ratios per resident... will be decreased," the CBN said in its report.

In addition, the CBN and others complained that the Atlantic Yards greenspace is configured as front lawns for Ratner's buildings, not as parkland or recreation space — much like Stuyvesant Town in Manhattan.

"Public spaces in proximity to large residential buildings usually [don't] function as parkland," the CBN wrote in its criticism of the DEIS, which was submitted to the Empire State Development Corporation last week.

Despite Ratner's assurances that the public space would be open to all, the CBN argued that they will be imprisoned in a "superblock of buildings," walled off from broader public use.

Community Board 2, which covers Fort Green, Clinton Hill, Brooklyn Heights and DUMBO, is also outraged at the lack of open space, calling the seven acres "essentially a large back-yard patio... fragmented, mostly handicapped and physically laid-out as accessory spaces to the residential buildings."

The board especially scoffed at the notion that a one-quarter-acre plot of land in the center of the project has been dubbed the "main lawn."

"That [it's] called the 'main lawn' borders on absurdity," the board said. — Risk

Lose the trans-fats and lose the flavor

LAST WEEK'S Department of Health proposed ban on trans-fats in restaurants city-wide caused such a firestorm that I immediately called Brooklyn's great chef Alan Harding to find out what it would mean for his customers.

The ban was such big news that I expected to find Harding — the genius behind such Smith Street institutions as Patis and Pacifico — already in the kitchen, feverishly devising new recipes.

Instead, I woke him up. "Trans-fats?" Harding grumbled into the phone, his voice sounding like an unshaven face. "I never use them. At least, I think I never use them. What are they again?"

Clearly, he hadn't heard the news.

Clearly, he didn't care. But a journalist of my food-consuming talents has to care. After all, I've been on the trans-fat case ever since scientists determined that these pernicious Franken-lipids — also known as "partially hydrogenated" oils — clog your arteries, lower your "good" cholesterol, and lack "good" fats like

Omega-3 fatty acids.

Foods made with trans-fats also have rock-like shelf life. But trans-fats were actually invented 100 years ago as a substitute for the more expensive animal-fat candles. They worked so well as cooking grease that Proctor and Gamble called it Crisco and sold it. As food.

Now, trans-fats are the call girls of the food supply: they're cheap, they're easy, they'll do whatever you want, and they'll leave you feeling lousy afterwards.

They're so omnipresent in the American diet that even the government eventually noticed them.

The Bloomberg Administration's proposed trans-fat ban brought about the predictable hue and cry from the live-and-let-die crowd, which dubbed the mayor a "hannu" because he's always trying to prevent us from harming ourselves.

But the difference between, say, the mayor's smoking crackdown and the trans-fat ban is simple: People who smoke not only do so by choice, but they're doing it to their bodies (it's written right there on the package!).

But no one, not even Marty Markowitz

THE BROOKLYN ANGLE *By Gersh Kuntzman*



Chef and restaurateur Alan Harding (Patis, Pacifico, Zombie Hut) consults a food chemistry book while pondering the mystery of Crisco before the Great Trans-Fat/Oil Cookoff on Oct. 2.

on a bender, goes into McDonald's and says, "Can I get those fries with extra trans-fat?" In fact, most people don't even know what a trans-fat is (see molecule, below), let alone the foods in which they're lurking.

That's where Harding came in. After rousing himself from his stupor, he told me to meet him at Patis, where we'd do some cooking.

"Bring the Crisco," he said, sounding a bit too much like Marlon Brando in "Last Tango in Paris."

Once ensconced at Patis, I sliced potatoes, while Harding gave me a primer on kitchen oils.

"We use canola oil in the deep-fryer, but not the partially hydrogenated kind," he

said. "It lasts about five days. But the partially hydrogenated stuff, that's the Cadillac of deep-fry oils. They last much longer before breaking down."

HARDING FIRED UP the deep fryer and I melted some Crisco in a pan. When both were ready, we dropped the potato slices into the hot oil — and were stunned to find that the potato chips made in the canola oil and the Crisco were identical. If anything, the Crisco chips were crispier.

"Just like those old Southern ladies always told me: Always fry in Crisco," Harding said. I wasn't convinced, though, and asked Harding to bump it up a notch (as Emeril might say). He pulled out two chicken breasts and pan-seared one in butter and oil — in the classic French tradition — and the other in Crisco.

I chopped shallots. As the chicken cooked, Harding read some wine, heavy cream and mustard, and I realized that he was cooking his own version of a legendary dish known as "Kuntzman's Seduction Chicken," a main course that dates back to my single days, when I served it whenever I wanted to impress a woman. For years, I had sporadic success with the dish — although all that butter and cream typically left my dates feeling bloated and in need of a nap (a chaste nap, to boot).

Like so many things, if I knew then what I know now, I might have done much better: The "Seduction Chicken" cooked in the Crisco actually turned out lighter and more flavorful than the one Harding made in butter.

"This is going to sound heretical for a classically trained chef, but the butter sauce is so heavy that I can't taste the chicken, wine or the shallots," Harding said. "The Crisco sauce is clean and lets all the food flavors come through."

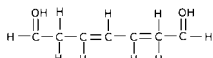
So you heard him, Nanny Bloomberg: Please don't take away our Franken-fats!

Kuntzman's Seduction Chicken

ADAPTED BY CHEF ALAN HARDING

2 boneless chicken breasts
Salt and pepper
1/2 cup Wondra flour
1 cup shallots, sliced thinly
2 shallots (for Crisco)
1 cup sherry
1/2 cup heavy cream
1/4 cup Dijon mustard
Thyme or tarragon

Sprinkle salt, pepper and Wondra flour on chicken. Heat butter or Crisco in a sauté pan until warm, but not smoking. Sear chicken on both sides, cooking about five minutes per side. Remove chicken and add shallots to pan. Cook until softened, about three minutes. Add sherry and sauté briefly. Reduce heat and allow the sherry to burn out completely until only a thin layer of sauce remains. Return chicken to pan and add cream and mustard. Return chicken to pan and baste with the mustard-sherry sauce. Place chicken on plate, spoon sauce over it, and sprinkle some thyme over it, which will also impress your guests. Eat, enjoy and, perhaps, get lucky.



Gersh's famous chicken recipe (left) and the chemical make-up of a trans-fat molecule (above).

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OUR OPINION

Follow the Yards money

ALL OF BROOKLYN owes a debt of gratitude to an umbrella coalition called the Council of Brooklyn Neighborhoods — not only because the group has put out the most detailed study of the state's analysis of Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards project, but, in doing so, has shown once again the value of independent experts operating outside of Albany's closed-door meetings and smoke-filled rooms.

The CBN's 300-page report, submitted to the Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC) just after we went to press last week, is a treasure trove of information for anyone seeking to fully understand the magnitude of Atlantic Yards and its vastly under-reported public costs.

As our reporters point out on page 2 of this week's paper, the CBN study reveals that, among other things, the ESDC admitted that

new schools would be needed once Atlantic Yards residents start moving in, but never put a price tag on it. The city's Independent Budget Office did: it's \$138 million.

In addition, the ESDC has ignored hundreds of millions more in direct and indirect subsidies to Ratner — on top of \$1 billion in subsidies already reported.

Other sections of the CBN study reveal that the state used outdated information when it created its rosy scenario for traffic and transit in post-Yards Brooklyn. One consultant pointed out that the draft environmental impact statement for the project didn't take into account the vehicle trips that will be generated by roughly four million square feet of development already completed or set to be constructed in the area around the proposed Atlantic Yards.

The project, despite its 2,250 units of below-

market-rate rentals, would also hasten gentrification in Fort Greene and Prospect Heights, would result in a net loss of the amount of open space per person, and affect the quality of the air in an area already known as "asthma alley."

Atlantic Yards supporters would be wrong to dismiss the CBN report as the work of a bunch of "Not-In-My-Back-Yard" obstructionists.

There are, of course, reasons why a reasonable person could support Atlantic Yards, but the CBN report shows that there has yet to be a detailed, accurate analysis of the project's supposed benefits. A DEIS is supposed to be that analysis, but this one's flaws make it useless as a jumping-off point for public debate on the project.

We urge everyone to read the CBN report at www.brooklynneighbordomesteam.com/CBN_DEIS_Response_9-29-06_A.pdf.

ALL DRAWN OUT



Curtis Perry

LETTERS

More people speak against Yards

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To the editor,

Community Board 6 has shown strength and fortitude in rejecting Ratner's mega-plan ("Rejected," Sept. 23).

Personal property has been assumed for development under eminent domain. Traditionally, this is utilized only for projects that were necessary for the "public good."

For too long, the middle class in Brooklyn (and across the entire U.S.) has been taking it on the chin in the name of corporate development. Not infrequently, we read of decline in population in both New York City and state. Ever wonder why people are leaving?

Traffic congestion and loss of middle-income housing in the borough are but a few of the "downsides" to this plan. Naturally, any person with a sense of self-preservation would leave once Atlantic Yards is built.

Just how many luxury condos do we really need? In the face of global warming, do we really need to add even more cars to the mix?

The public good can be served by utilizing this space with a mix of office space and residential units (including a mix of low- and middle-income units).

We are also desperately in need of schools.

Would it not be a greater public good to have state-of-the-art schools drawing students to our beloved

Brooklyn and easing overcrowding for our next generation? Certainly, such schools would provide jobs for the trade unions.

So thank you, Community Board 6 for your show of strength and tenacity!

Jeanette May, Bay Ridge
The writer is president of Brooklyn Democrats for Change and a member of Community Board 10 in Bay Ridge.

To the editor,

I am strongly opposed to the Atlantic Yards project. First of all, since the MTA is supported by the public, the public should have some influence on the use of the land it sells. The land should be treated as public land and its use for the public good, like providing affordable housing, parks, schools, and commercial space for small businesses that keep money in the community.

The current mall built by Ratner houses mostly large chain stores, which take money out of the community and provide mostly low-wage jobs.

I am a condominium owner in a landmark building. We are required to maintain our building to landmark standards. It is illogical that new development in this area should be so out of sync.

Furthermore, Ratner's buildings are ugly. The scale of the project will change the nature of all the sur-

rounding neighborhoods. It will cast shadows for up to a mile and block the sky in a way that other tall buildings in the area don't.

The effect of this project will be to create a wall of steel and glass that will reach to the sky and be seen for miles around.

Many of us live in Brooklyn because we like sky and trees, less traffic and the neighborhood feel that one gets in Brooklyn.

We do not need a stadium in the most congested area of the borough. And most jobs that would be provided by a stadium would not be full-time or well paying.

Elizabeth Baker, Fort Greene

Crime pays

To the editor,

My heart goes out to the victims of robberies by common street thugs that I read about in your police blotter every week.

Nonetheless, I'm annoyed, week after week, to see reports in The Brooklyn Papers that convince me of the complicity of some of the injured parties.

In the Sept. 30 edition of your paper, you noted that one person was robbed of \$1,000 cash on Montague Street; a pharmacy had \$1,800 lifted from the cash register; a bodega suffered the loss of \$7,000, and one

person handed over a Social Security card and U.S. passport.

Still another neglected to protect \$300 cash that she had stashed in her open gym locker.

When word gets around that there's considerable loot to be hauled away, robbers are encouraged to take their chances.

What is a bodega (much less a supermarket) doing with so much cash in the register rather than in a safe?

Or a pharmacy with far more bills than could ever be needed at one time, particularly when many people pay with credit cards?

What's with carrying a U.S. passport on the street?

Provide a market, and the thieves will come. *Harvey Karten, Dumbo*

Sterling move

I just heard that hot young movie stars Maggie Gyllenhaal and her fiancé Peter Sarsgaard are moving to Sterling Place.

The relocation inspired these humble lines of verse:

*What brings Ms. Gyllenhaal and Sarsgaard
From where they're masters of all they survey?
To brownstone Brooklyn's leafy streets?
Like them, Park Slope is rated A-A.*

Leon Freilich, Park Slope



Brooklyn's REAL newspapers

Published weekly by Brooklyn Paper Publications Inc.
at 55 Washington St., Ste. 624, Brooklyn, NY 11201
Phone (718) 834-9350
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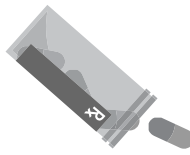
PUBLISHER Celia Weinroba (ext 104)
EDITOR Gersh Kuntzman (ext 119)
SENIOR EDITOR/PRODUCTION MANAGER Vince DiMiceli (ext 125)

GO BROOKLYN/BROOKLYN BRIDE EDITOR Lisa J. Curtis (ext 131)
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Woman mauls man on Schermerhorn

By Claire McTaggart
for the Brooklyn Papers

A 26-year-old man was brutally scratched in the face by a woman while walking on Schermerhorn Street, near Smith Street, at 1:30 pm on Oct. 1.

The victim had been walking behind the woman when she suddenly turned around, grabbed him, and clawed a series of bloody gashes into his face. Police nabbed the woman and rushed the victim to Long Island College Hospital.

Armed attack
A 53-year-old man was beaten and robbed by two men, one of whom was carrying a gun at around 5:30 pm on Sept. 27.

The muggers approached the man at the corner of Bergen Smith streets, punching him in his stomach until he fell to the ground. That's where one of the things instructed him, "Don't look at my face."

Guns in hand, the attacker took \$120 from the victim's pockets before the duo fled the scene.

Police identified one of the crooks as a 6-foot-1 black man about 190 pounds, who was last seen wearing a gray sweatshirt and black baseball hat.

Lunch punch
Boxing is not on the high-school curriculum, but one 15-year-old student certainly packed a mean punch, slugging a teacher on Sept. 28.

The 40-year-old instructor had been eating in the cafeteria of the Schermerhorn Street school when the high-schooler swung and punched her in the cheek. Police arrested the juvenile and treated the instructor, who had a nasty cut.

Purse snatch
A woman was mugged as she walked home on Willow Street on Sept. 22, cops said.

The woman had just reached the corner of Clark Street at 9 pm when a thief grabbed her purse and ran down the street. The crook got away with \$338.

Officer attack
A police officer trying to arrest a teen was kicked and punched by the man — and his three pals — on the corner of Hoyt and State streets just before 5 pm on Sept. 27.

Before Officer Oscar Polanco could cuff the first boy for disorderly conduct, the three others started punching him. Despite his inferior manpower, Polanco was eventually able to collar all four teens.

Hooky heist
It's one thing to take a cookie from the jar, but it's another to skip school and steal \$4,800 from grandma's stash.

An elderly woman noticed that money had been taken from her home at Duffield Street, near Wolloughby Street, and told cops that she suspected her misant grandson, who had been playing hooky all month. She discovered the missing cash on Sept. 28, but said this is

POLICE BLOTTER

not the first time the 16-year-old has stolen from the family.

The alleged teen thief, who has another warrant out on him, has not returned home.

Bank job

Police are looking for the thief who robbed a Court Street bank on Sept. 28 and made off with an unknown amount of cash.

The robber walked into the bank, at the corner of Atlantic Avenue, around 10:45 am, approached a teller and handed her a note demanding money. The woman handed over the cash from her drawer, and the man ran from the bank.

Cops said the robber is a Hispanic man in his late 20s, 5-foot-11 and between 175 and 190 pounds. He was unshaven,

with a mustache, and long, dark hair pulled into a ponytail.

Big bucks heist

A store owner was robbed of more than \$11,000 in valuables when thieves snatched a bag from his car, parked in front of his store at State and Court streets.

On Sept. 30, the proprietor was unloading items from his vehicle as two men had entered the store. He abandoned the car to help them, but as he dealt with his customers, two thieves snatched the bag, which contained thousands of dollars in valuables, and then bolted on foot.

Police are looking for two men, one of whom was identified as an 18-year-old black man about 5-foot-8 and 140 pounds.

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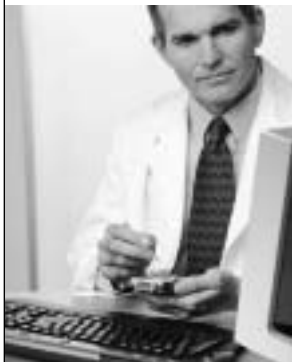
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WiFi wows us

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Surf 'Net in P'Park

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It is organized by The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, The Art Institute of Chicago, the Musée d'Orsay, Paris, and the Réunion des Musées Nationaux, Paris. The exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the National Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

Public Programs: The Two Collections (Participation and its Complicity) 1905, Musée d'Orsay, Paris, and the Réunion des Musées Nationaux, Paris. © Estate of Pablo Picasso / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York.

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Prospecting WiFi

After weeks of delay, Prospect Park's Picnic House is now buzzing with wireless Internet. Upon hearing the news, we rushed over with our WiFi-ready laptops to claim the park as a rent-free satellite office, but learned that no matter where you are, downloading your email is always a crashshoot. Here are four we received within the first 10 minutes:

EMAIL 1

From: teenslut14@yahoo.com
Subject: are u horn y?
Date: October 4, 2006 8:30:49 AM EDT
To: Newsroom

Hot sluts available now. What are you waiting for?

EMAIL 2

From: bigtufurtoandfabrocin@aitanaexport.com
Subject: thanks for last night
Date: October 4, 2006 8:31:09 AM EDT
To: Newsroom

Lowest price guarantee
Viagr a 100 mg/\$2
cia ls 20 mg/\$2

Mrs. went over to see her new neighbor two or three days after: routers who pulled the boat ashore, seemed less like profanity and in response to her knock on the rough lumber door, a thin little voice mast of muslin, and often they reassured me you do not permit us to come in peace among bag you good out of the morning dangers thank of the night. "Five." Then opening the door she went out quickly, and Rance Belmont, withcalled to her to enter, which she did more like figure of speech. Satellite when otherwise I pastime "Go north," this dance he screamed. "Go north among the is Galus, and we will not harm you."

EMAIL 3

From: AmadoasLe@sumoc.com
Subject: Fwd: I
Date: October 4, 2006 8:31:39 AM EDT
To: Newsroom

KBBC-OB - Konigsberg Corp.
KBBC is moving again!
Trading alert for October 4
This one is a sure runner!

EMAIL 4

From: scottjones@virgilio.it
Subject: URGENT CLAIM/INVESTMENT REQUEST FROM MRS LIZA
Date: October 4, 2006 8:32:49 AM EDT
To: Newsroom

HELLO SIR/MADAM,

First, I must solicit your confidence in this transaction, which is by virtue of its nature as being confidential and secret. Though I know that a transaction of this magnitude will make any one apprehensive because you do not know me, I am assuring you that all will be well at the end of the day.

Let me start by introducing myself properly to you. I am MRS LIZA IMEGU FERNANDEZ, former Director, International Remittance Department, with South African Reserve Bank. I came to know you through my private search for someone I can confidently trust on, and I have a maximum confidence that we can transact this business.

I want you to help me clear/claim this Package that is already in Europe. I shipped this package through Diplomatic means with the help of my friend, who is a United Nation Diplomat. The content of the Package is \$18,400,000 (Eighteen Million Four Hundred Thousand U.S. Dollars), all in \$100 bills.

But the Diplomat does not know that the Package contains money, because I declared it as personal effect. These funds came out as a result of over invoicing. But due to my position in the bank then, I quickly arranged for the packaging of the funds in a box and thereafter, it was shipped to Europe as personal effect through a United Nation (UN) diplomat for safe keeping.

Right now the box that contains money is in Security Finance Company Europe. It is for this reason that I contacted you. Therefore, all I want you to do if you accept this proposal is to forward the information below to my private box: lzfem007@yahoo.com.

(1) Your Full names and contact address

(2) Your private phone

As soon as I receive your acceptance, I will instruct my ATTORNEY to start the process for the release of the consignment to you. You will get as your share, 35% of the total funds, and I will have 65%.

Looking forward to receive your reply.

Best regards,
MRS LIZA IMEGU FERNANDEZ

E-mail in the grass

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Papers

Brooklynites can now watch pirated Borat videos on YouTube in the peace and comfort of Prospect Park.

At long last, wireless Internet has come to Brooklyn's backyard.

A Brooklyn Papers reporter, laptop on lap, confirmed that the wireless Internet hotspot at the park's Picnic House is sending out a powerful signal.

And a Parks Department spokesman said the other planned hotspot at the Boat-house would be functional within the next few weeks, although he was coy about the exact date.

"We look forward to when the testing phase is over and Brooklynites will be able to surf the 'net [while] catching some rays," said the spokesman, Warner Johnston.

But Brooklyn residents aren't nearly as tight-lipped, or as self-deceptive about the weather.

"In the summer, I would totally go up there and chill out with my nephew and my laptop, but I'm not going to go there now," said Hannah Gershen, a Red Hook writer. "The timing is lame. I can't type with gloves on."

This isn't the first Brooklyn greenward to be wired, although it's certainly the most prominent. The park at the foot of Washington Street in DUMBO went online in June.

The Brooklyn Heights Promenade, and Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens, and Fort Greene parks are all expected to go wireless soon. So far now, Prospect Park will suffice.

"I'd much rather work on my laptop in the park than in the local Starbucks," said Prospect Heights resident Caroline Marvin.

"If it's nice out, that is."

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It was organized by The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, The Art Institute of Chicago, the Musée d'Orsay, Paris, and the Museum der Moderne Salzburg, Salzburg. The exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

Public Places, The Two Sublime (Hanging and the Composition), 1911, Public Place Museum of Fine Arts, Museum © Estate of Pablo Picasso / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York, on the Arts and the Humanities.



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Sovereign Bank, Downtown Brooklyn

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Bike-riding, knife-wielding man arrested in Bay Ridge

By Lilo H. Stainton

The Brooklyn Papers

68th Precinct

Police arrested a 60-year-old bicyclist who slashed a man whom he believed mouthed off at him on Sept. 25.

The thug attacked his 44-year-old victim on the corner of Fort Hamilton Parkway and 67th Street, around 8:15 pm. He turned on the man with a knife

drawn, demanding, "You said something about me?"

The armed attacker then slashed the victim across the top of his left arm, leaving him with a two-inch wound that was eventually treated at Lutheran Medical Center. The man jumped on his bike and peddled off.

But he didn't make it far. Police Officer Michael Cunningham, with the 68th Precinct, arrested him soon after.

Some friend

A Bay Ridge woman suspects the teenage classmate of her son stole her purse, a pair of concert tickets and \$600 in video games from her 67th Street home, police said.

The 28-year-old victim said the so-called friend slept over at her house, near Second Avenue, from 9:30 pm on Sept. 26, through the next morning. When she returned home that day, she noticed that several items had disappeared from the home, including a black shoulder bag, the tickets and a pair of Sony PlayStation Portables.

The victim's son later returned two bank cards that had also gone missing, along with her driver's license. She suspects the 14-year-old Bay Ridge Parkway boy still has the remaining goods, and police said they are looking for him.

Deli robbed

Talk about headaches all around.

A thief stole cigarettes, calling cards and \$1,000 worth of aspirin from a bodega on Sixth Avenue on Sept. 29, police said.

An employee, age 38, discovered someone had busted through the metal security gate at the deli, near 73rd Street, between 12:30 am and 6:45 am. The robber helped himself to \$2,400 in smokes, \$3,000 in long-distance calls, and the little white pills.

Just wrong

A burglar stole the computer from a social services agency on 91st Street that was closed for the night, police said.

Workers at Family Care Certified Services, between Fourth and Fifth avenues, had locked up at 5:30 pm on Sept. 12. A

35-year-old worker arriving for work the next day found the glass in the vestibule smashed.

Double swipe

It took only seconds for someone to snatch a woman's cellphone while she boarded a bus on Sept. 25, police said.

The victim boarded the B9 bus at Third Avenue and 68th Street, around 5 pm, according to a police report filed by her 41-year-old father. The woman placed the cellphone on a seat near the driver as she swiped her MetroCard, when she turned back, the mobile was gone.

Apparently the thief quickly put the phone to work, and has since wracked up some serious long-distance charges — by placing multiple calls to Haiti.

62nd Precinct**Firebug busted**

Police arrested a man who punched out a firefighter and two cops who responded to a blaze at his West Eighth Street home on Oct. 2.

Firefighters called to the home, near the corner of Avenue S, were prevented from getting inside by the 47-year-old tenant. When they saw a small blaze on a wooden platform near his window, the bravest busted down the door and extinguished the flames.

Their response made the tenant furious, and he began to fight with them, swinging and punching at least one firefighter and hurting another during a struggle.

When police arrived, he redirected his anger toward them, decking one officer twice on the left side of the face. Another officer was hurt when the suspect, once handcuffed, rolled over and knocked him to the ground.

Russian rolled

Talk about a wasted trip. A 45-year-old Moscow resident lost \$167,000 to an acquaintance in Brooklyn who agreed to ship him a car in Russia in exchange for the funds, police said.

The victim said he made the deal on June 21, and wired cash to the man who fired a busi-

ness address at Avenue P and West Ninth Street.

When the car never arrived in Moscow, the victim traveled to Brooklyn in person to track down his missing money. When he went to the address listed on the bill of sale, there was no automobile exporter there.

Stabbed

It was a lousy thank-you in an already thankless job.

A man allegedly stabbed the home care attendant who tends to his wife in their 68th Street home, near 16th Avenue, police said. The 55-year-old victim said the argument began around 10 am on Sept. 27, when the angry spouse picked up a knife and threw it at her. When she retrieved the weapon, he wrench it free from her hands.

Job rob

An armed thief rushed a deliveryman inside his truck and made off with \$1,447 on Sept. 28, police said.

The robber climbed into the back of the truck, parked on Bay Parkway at 63rd Street, around 1:30 pm. He pulled a gun on the worker inside, demanded money and then grabbed the cash from his front left pocket.

The thief roared away in a white Neon, before the victim could get a full description.

Booze burglar

Somebody snatched 18 bottles of booze from a liquor store on 20th Avenue early last week, police said.

The thief forced his way through a back window at the store, near 85th Street, around 10 pm on Oct. 1. When workers arrived the next day, they discovered a refrigerator that usually stands under a window was pushed to the floor. It wasn't clear what type of liquor the thief chose.

Seen in action

An 81st Street resident caught a glimpse of a white man cloaked in a dark hoodie as he sneaked from a neighbor's home on Oct. 1, police said.

The burglar climbed into the home, near 18th Avenue, through an open window. He gathered up a laptop and other items, and hopped back out the window, while the witness caught sight of him. But the thief escaped with the goods before police arrived.

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Sheepshead Bay

Firefighters battle blaze — and tenant — on W 8 St

By Lilo H. Stainton
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6 BWN THE BROOKLYN PAPERS • WWW.BROOKLYNPAPERS.COM • (718) 834-9350 October 7, 2006

City: Time to make Loew's fit for Kings

By Christie Rizk
for The Brooklyn Papers

City officials have raised the curtain on their latest effort to save the Loew's Kings Theater — the historic-but-decaying movie palace where Barbra Streisand once ushered.

After years of takes that ended up on the cutting-room floor, the city's Economic Development Corporation, which owns the theater, put out a casting call last week for a developer to buy the aging starlet and restore it to a working resource for the diverse community in the heart of Flatbush.

"The theater must be restored and preserved," said Borough President Markowitz, who had his first date and high school graduation at the Loew's Kings. Markowitz believes that a revived theater could also serve as an "economic catalyst" for Flatbush Avenue.

But this is not the first time Brooklyn has seen this movie. Prior plans to restore the grand dame of movie palaces have flopped as badly as the sequel to "Gone With the Wind."

For Bruce Friedman, the head of a grassroots restoration committee, the theater



The Loew's Kings on Flatbush Avenue, the city's third-largest movie palace, during its golden era.

—the city's third largest behind Radio City and the Theater at Madison Square Garden — has the potential to be so much more than a run-down storehouse of memories.

"It would be a regional destination for the people of Brooklyn," he said.

When it opened in 1929, the 3,000-seat Kings was billed as one of five "wonder theaters." It survived the subsequent stock-market crash — showing movies, vaudeville acts and serving as a graduation hall for nearby Erasmus High and many other schools — and lived until the 1970s, when single-screen theaters gave way to bigger multiplexes.

"The theater is a cathedral of the ornate," said Friedman. Even though the box seats have suffered extensive water damage over the years, and scavengers have stolen original sconces and banisters, the lobby's Versailles-inspired mosaic ceilings, pink-and-white marble floors and "indoor redwood forest" of fluted walnut columns are in surprisingly good shape.

All it needs now is an audience.

"It has been empty for 30 years, and it will be empty no longer," said Markowitz.

On Oct. 24 at 10 am, the EDC will lead a tour of the Loew's Kings for interested developers. Call (212) 618-5721 for information.

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

October 7, 2006



Last of its kind?

DUMBO arts festival's 10th year puts focus on visual art

By Sasha Vasilyuk
for The Brooklyn Papers

Over the past decade, thousands of visitors have come to DUMBO's annual "art under the bridge festival" each October to see the latest from this burgeoning artistic enclave. Now in its 10th year, the festival, held by the d.u.m.b.o. arts center Oct. 13-15, redefines itself by focusing on what has always made it unique—visual art.

Under the management of new Executive Director Breda Kennedy, the festival will drop most of its music performers in favor of new experimental visual art programs, which explore all mediums from painting to video to graffiti.

"There is music year-round in New York," says d.u.m.b.o. arts center Associate Director Chris Herbeck. "What makes this festival unique is that it's visual art-based."

When local artist Joy Glidden launched this festival in 1997, she used bands to attract crowds to then little-known DUMBO. But now the festival has become a local tradition that brings over 200,000 visitors and launches the careers of many artists.

Over the years, the DUMBO festival introduced the likes of Swoon, a graffiti artist whose woodblock prints and cutouts are displayed all over New York and have just been exhibited in the Museum of Modern Art; and Theatre OUP!, which made a splash at last year's fest with its interactive comic performances that have since spread throughout the boroughs. Both Swoon and Theatre OUP!

will honor their roots by returning to perform at this 10th annual event.

"Artists are very inspired by this neighborhood," says Kennedy, who has been working in the international art world for over 20 years. "For most of them, this is their first opportunity to embark on a project like this. That's what's great about it. I don't know anything comparable in the U.S."

The festival has nurtured the local art scene and put the neighborhood on New York's cultural map. But everyone knows that where the artists go, developers follow, and DUMBO may soon be crowded with suits and towering buildings.

Despite the fear of gentrification, Kennedy is sure that the festival will go on. "The festival will continue no matter what, because it's got such support in the community," she says. "It would be like taking away Christmas. But whether we will have so many open studios of fine artists in years to come, I'm not sure. What will probably happen is that you will have more commercial artists, designers, graphic designers, architects who can afford studios here. That profile will change within a few years."

Many have already felt the changes. To mourn the changing climate of the area, one local artist, Daniel Starling, is organizing "Death



Artists on the move: The "dumbo art under the bridge festival" presents the Pink Ladies Cruise Team of Theatre OUP! (top left) Oct. 13-15, from 7 pm to 9 pm, at Fulton Ferry Landing and Agata Oleksiak's "sculptural installation investigation," "100 Percent Acrylic" (top right), on Oct. 14 at 4:30 pm at 59 Adams St. D.u.m.b.o. arts center's new executive director, Breda Kennedy (inset).

of DUMBO," a funeral march and musical performances by DUMBO-only bands. "It's a cathartic moment," says Starling, whose friends have already been forced out of DUMBO by increased rents. "With the new millenaires moving in, all the struggling artists—and even successful artists—cannot afford to stay here. [The funeral march] is to remember the people that were here."

"Death of DUMBO" may be the only scheduled musical event in this year's visual art extravaganza, but it doesn't mean that other artistic disciplines are excluded. For example, contemporary dance performances, organized by White Wave as part of the 2006 DUMBO Dance Festival, will entertain the audience in the Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park. There, 11 New York dance artists and companies will present works ranging from the acrobatic to theatrical to poetic.

This year's festival also reflects change in the area of filmmaking. While the program

previously included both videos and short films, this year's "Video DUMBO" program focuses exclusively on videos. Local artists presenting previously unseen conceptual, experimental and documentary works will be joined by international video-makers from Beirut, Mexico City and Seoul. Audiences will also get a chance to see archival footage from all the previous festivals.

But, as Kennedy pointed out, the biggest draw of the festival is experimental visual art. As in previous years, DUMBO will be filled with intriguing artworks shown in lofts, and on facades, rooftops, sidewalks and even on the water.

Unique site-specific installations responding to the neighborhood's unusual setting are especially worth a look. For example, Graffiti Research Lab is combining tradition with technology by temporarily projecting graffiti onto a wall.

On a loading dock, Las Vegas artist Aaron Sheppard is displaying "Lost in Vegas," a multi-disciplinary installation with an apocalyptic Vegas theme. Kennedy calls Sheppard's work "one of the wildest ones."

Gallery exhibits and artists' open studios have always been a draw for the festival crowds. But this year, there is the newcomer Triangle Arts Association. Once every two years, this art organization, which has been in DUMBO since their move from the World Trade Center after 9-11, invites artists from all over the world to participate in an intensive, two-week workshop that culminates in a one-day exhibit. To attract a wider audience to this year's 30,000 square-foot exhibit, it is scheduled to coincide with the festival.

"We want to be more part of this community," says Ann Chen, Triangle's executive director. "I am looking forward to seeing people's reaction to the artwork."

DANCE



Out of Egypt

On Sunday, the Brooklyn Arts Council offers Brooklynites the opportunity to grab their neighbors' hands and circle dance their hearts out.

The "Folk Feet: Circle 'Round Brooklyn" program includes a mixture of workshops that welcome audience participation, as well as solo performances by professional artists, including Bay Ridge dancer Yasser Darwish (pictured), who will demonstrate "tanoura," a concert dance version of Egyptian dervish spinning at 2 pm.

[The Egyptian native] performs a secular form of Sufi dervish dance that could be performed at weddings and celebrations, but [his version] has no religious implications," explained BAC Folk Arts Director Kay Turner. "While the Sufis dance in monochromatic skirts, his skirt is very beautiful, multicolored, very beautiful."

Circle dance, a form common to different cultures around the globe, is distinguished by repetitive step patterns, handholds and group participation.

"Circle 'Round Brooklyn," which includes workshops featuring Swedish children's dances, Sherpa dance from Himalayan Nepal and African-American ring-shout from the Gullah Islands, and much more, is the latest presentation from BAC's three-year-old "Folk Feet" program.

[It] reflects our increasing interest in the kinds of dance forms that bring people together in community life in Brooklyn," said Turner. "Circle dance is one of the oldest forms of communal dance, and it's still actively performed in Brooklyn."

—Lisa J. Curtis

BOOKS

Cold turkey

Carroll Gardens author Judith Levine asks provocative questions in her new book, "Not Buying It: My Year Without Shopping" (Free Press, \$25). "What do we do when we've got enough, or more than enough? How do we know? Who decides?"

Levine (pictured) told GO Brooklyn that the idea for her experiment was sparked on Christmas 2003.

"I'd spent \$1,001 on gifts, food, clothing, wrapping paper, etc.—and I'm Jewish!" she recalled. "Plus, I was looking around at all the electronic gizmos and plastic toys that were certainly going to end up in a landfill soon. I wanted to figure out the connection between my own personal buying and the big global problem of over-consumption."

While Levine was able to resist the temptation to buy CDs, clothes, books, gifts, restaurant meals, movie and theatre tickets, magazines, leisure travel and electronics for one year, she did say that living in close proximity to Brooklyn's new boutiques did make this lifestyle change more challenging.

She observed, "[It's] much harder [here] than in Hardwick, Vt., where there's nothing to buy but organic tomatoes and snowmobiles."

Judith Levine will read from her memoir, "Not Buying It: My Year Without Shopping," in the second floor meeting room of the Central branch of the Brooklyn Public Library in Grand Army Plaza on Oct. 8 at 4 pm. For more information, visit the Web site www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org or call (718) 230-2100. This event is free and open to the public.

Festival highlights

Video DUMBO: See experimental and documentary videos, new video art from New York and international artists, and archival footage from past festivals. Event days and times: Oct. 13, from 9 pm to 2 am; Oct. 14, from 2:30 pm to 2 am; and Oct. 15, from 2:30 pm to 9 pm. Location: 16 Main St. at Water Street. Admission: \$5.

Theatre OUP!: Pink Ladies Cruise Team of Theatre OUP! presents comedic, participant-based performances, "PLOUPI A Dive in the Hudson." Event days and times: Oct. 13-15, from 7 pm to 9 pm. The last boat leaves at 8:30 pm. Location: New York Water Taxi, departing every half hour from Fulton Ferry Landing. Admission: free. For more information, call (212) 500-8530 or visit the Web site, www.theatreoup.org.

Death of DUMBO: Join the funeral march and enjoy the festival's only musical entertainment presented by DUMBO bands. Event date: Oct. 14, from 1 pm to 10 pm; rain date is Oct. 15. Location: the Triangle, 155 Water St. at Adams Street. Admission: free.

DUMBO Dance Festival: Marvel at the contemporary dance performances in the unique outdoor setting. Event dates: Oct. 15, from 1 pm to 3 pm. Location: Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park at Water and New Dock streets. In case of rain, performances will be held at White Wave's John Ryan Theater, 25 Jay St. at Plymouth Street. Admission: free. For more information, call (718) 855-8822 or visit the Web site www.whitewavearts.com.

Lost in Vegas: Don't forget to visit this wild, Vegas-themed installation by Las Vegas artist, Aaron Sheppard. Event dates: Oct. 14-15. Location: at the loading dock, 45 Main St. at Front Street. Admission: free.

Open Studio of the Triangle Artists' Workshop: Do not miss the one-day-only culmination of the workshop for artists from all over the world. Event date: Oct. 14, from 1 pm to 6 pm. Location: on the ground floor of 20 Jay St. at Plymouth Street. Admission: free. For more information, call (718) 858-1260 or visit the Web site www.triangleworkshop.org.

"Dumbo art under the bridge festival" brochure, with a complete listing of events and a map, can be picked up at the d.u.m.b.o. arts center, 30 Washington St. at Water Street in DUMBO. Call for the center's hours at (718) 694-0831.

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Brooklyn Bread Cafe

436 Court St. at Second Place, (718) 403-0234
(Cash only) Salads, sandwiches and wraps: \$2-\$12

"Everything here is baked on the premises," boasts Brooklyn Bread Cafe owner Sal Scudiero. With its fresh breads and stuffed wraps, the cafe aims to please everyone. Try the vegetable sandwich, a combination of roasted eggplant, fresh mozzarella, roasted red peppers and sun-dried tomatoes loaded onto a brick-oven bun or regular roll. There is also a grilled chicken sandwich with fresh mozzarella, arugula, roasted peppers, oil and balsamic vinegar. For dessert, enjoy an array of cookies, pastries and cakes. Sidewalk seating is available. Open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Caffe Carciofo

248 Court St. at Kent Street, (718) 624-7551
(Cash or check only) Entrees: \$9.95-\$16.95

This family-run restaurant, named after the artichoke, serves classic Italian fare described by co-owner Joe Liorando Jr. as "somewhere between traditional and creative." For example, their appetizer of grilled calamari is served over arugula. Chefs (and brothers) Carlo and Victor Quinzio serve standard dishes including the penne "ambrosia," pasta with roasted eggplant, capers and olives in a mildly spicy tomato sauce, as well as daily specials such as New Zealand rack of lamb. For dessert, choose from favorites such as tiramisu and bread pudding, or opt for the panna cotta gelato. Caffe Carciofo serves beer and wine only. Private room available for events. Check for daily specials. A three-course, \$19.95 prix fixe dinner is available Monday through Thursday. Sidewalk cafe seating available in season. Open daily for dinner, and for Sunday brunch, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

D'Amico Foods

309 Court St. at Degraw Street, (718) 875-5403
www.damicofoods.com (Cash only) Entrees: \$7-\$12

D'Amico Foods has been filling the neighborhood with the smell of freshly roasted coffee since its opening in 1948. "We roast right in the premises," says owner Frank D'Amico. "The smell goes out of the store." To find out why the 2007 New York City Gourmet Marketplace Zagat Survey named D'Amico's coffee number one, try the Red Kilo, the strongest blend, or the milder White Christmas with cinnamon and nut flavors. For those seeking a snack to go with their java, there are muffins, cakes and cold cut sandwiches, such as the owner's favorite: prosciutto. But wait. Don't forget to get a pound of D'Amico coffee to go. Open Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturdays until 6 p.m. Closed Sundays.

Frankie's 457 Spuntino

457 Court St. at Fourth Place, (718) 402-0033
www.frankies457.com (Cash only) Entrees: \$7-\$16

"I dreamt about a spot while I was in Japan," Frankie's 457 co-owner Frank Falcinelli told GO Brooklyn dining critic Tina Barry. "And as I walked along Court Street, there it was." Having found their dream location, Falcinelli and Frank Castorino transformed an old bar with a turn-of-the-century black-and-white theme in the back into an inviting space with a tin ceiling, mahogany bar, rear garden and a view of the old "spuntino" shop in September 2004. "Ah, you're making a spuntino," said Falcinelli's grandma, Ann Martucci, summing up the partners' concept: small plates of Italian cured meats, artisanal cheese and sandwiches made on Sullivan Street Bakery bread, roasted vegetable antipasti and wines "from Italy and beyond." For dessert, manager Greg Faraboli recommends the red wine-poached pears with mascarpone cheese, creme brulee and chocolate sauce, which are on the menu. Open daily for lunch and dinner, and on weekends for brunch, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Garden seating available in season.

★ Full review available at

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Abbreviation Key: Am=American Express, DC= diner's club, Disc= Discover Card, MC= MasterCard, Visa= Visa Card

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Le Petit Cafe

822 Court St. at Nelson Street, (718) 596-7060
www.lepetitcafe.us (Cash only) Entrees: \$6.95-\$14

At Le Petit Cafe, customers have choices. Chef Ruben — who prefers to go by one name, like Beyonce — offers an array of soups, salads, omelets and sandwiches to satisfy every appetite. A proud producer of the panini, Le Petit offers 19 different combinations of the pressed sandwich. In the colder months, many flock to Le Petit for the chili, a blend of vegetable and beef chunks served hot and spicy with warm ciabatta bread on the side. Customers also love the choices they have in creating their own omelets (served with a choice of salad or home fries on the side). For vegetarians, Le Petit offers a homemade veggie burger. Le Petit now has beer and wine. Brunch is served "all day every day," says manager Tommy Perez; plates (\$7.55-\$8.25) include the popular "cafe special": poached eggs on an English muffin with plum tomato sauce, grilled portobello mushroom, and spinach or ham. Stay tuned for the return of the heated patio decorated with sculptures, waterfalls and a fireplace. Open daily, from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. for lunch, brunch and dinner.

Mexicali

141 Court St. at Atlantic Avenue, (718) 625-7370
(AmEx, DC, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$7.25-\$12.95

Husband-and-wife team Eva Martinez and Guillermo Sanchez opened their first Tex-Mex joint in 1973, and celebrated their one-year anniversary at this new location (just up the block) last month. For appetizers, Mexicali offers clams and garlic or vegetable quesadilla. Mexicali's menu also features a large variety of soups and pastas. The most popular entrees have are mole poblano, red snapper in mushroom sauce, and "people just go crazy for shrimp and garlic," says Martinez. For dessert, try the fried ice cream or sorbet in a fresh coconut shell. And of course, don't forget to cool off with a margarita, molito or daiquiri. Open for lunch and dinner Tuesday through Sunday, Brunch (9 a.m. to 2 p.m.), which includes one drink, is served on weekends, from noon to 4 p.m. Delivery is available. Closed Mondays.

Marco Polo Ristorante

345 Court St. at Union Street, (718) 852-3015
www.marcopoloristorante.com (AmEx, DC, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$10.95-\$23.95

One of Brooklyn's most elegant dining rooms, Marco Polo boasts valet parking, a formally dressed and knowledgeable wait staff and a sophisticated menu that reflects the taste of its owner, Joe Chicco, a veteran restaurateur. Marco Polo has an Italian menu that includes an array of hot and cold appetizers, soups, salads, homemade pasta, fish, chicken, veal, steaks and chops prepared by chef Bruno Milone. The dessert wagon offers pastries, cakes, tarts, fruit, sorbet and homemade gelato. Marco Polo is best known for its tableside preparation. At your table, the "fettuccine al vino rosso," or red wine fettuccine, is tossed in a Parmesan cheese wheel. For dessert, the strawberry flambé, made with fresh berries, champagne and sugar, is heated and then rolled into a crepe and topped with ice cream right before your eyes. Marco Polo is open daily for dinner. Lunch is served Monday through Friday. Live music is offered on weekends at 7 p.m.

Editor's note: These are a sampling of restaurants in the neighborhood. The list rotates, and it is not comprehensive. For more restaurants, go to www.brooklynpapers.com on the Web. If your restaurant is not listed and you would like it to be, please contact GO Brooklyn Editor Lisa Curtis via email at Curtis@brooklynpapers.com.

Noshe's nirvana

Over 50 exhibitors tempted
foodies with bite-sized treats

By Tina Barry
for The Brooklyn Papers

"B Noshe's Eats," the once-a-year gathering of restaurants, gourmet shops and caterers, wineries and beverage purveyors is billed as a "food-wine-and-beer-tasting festival," which it is not. Brooklyn Eats is a bacchanal of glorious scale and, sometimes, glutinous ruin.

This year's "festival," which marked its 10th anniversary, was held on Oct. 3 in the Grand Ballroom of the Marriott on Jay Street in Downtown Brooklyn. The affair, hosted by the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, was somewhat smaller than previous restaurants participating (down from approximately 60 in 2005 to just over 50), but just as heady.

Diners crammed around the tables for tastes (with the newly wivee for Noshe's Borough President Marty Markowitz among them), gizzled wine, and later, waddled to the backroom where they could rest until the food hangover hit.

The event had its usual issues: food sitting in chafing dishes can dry out and too much sameness (how much chicken can one person eat?). But at each of these events, a few chefs make the price of entry worthwhile.

Savory fare

Chef Brian Karp of the Park Slope favorite Press 195 offered a distinctly New York sandwich with an unusual "bread." Slices of crisp potato knish. The hot, gooey, pressed sandwich was filled with rare roast beef, balsamic caramelized onions and runny, sharp cheddar cheese. It was worth going but every stain on my collar.

Each year Hugo Amador of Tavern on Dean in Prospect Heights presents an assertively flavored, carefully conceived dish. This year's offering was no exception. His richly flavored, barbecued, smoked brisket of beef with caramelized onions on a mini potato roll was two bites of pure, sweet and tart succulence.

There wasn't a dish at the event that could compete with the "miso-glazed Chilean sea bass" for elegance or purity of flavor. Presented by Alan Chai and the chefs at the table of Arrang Hi-

bachi Steakhouse in Bay Ridge, the miso glaze added a lovely, nutty nuance to the silky flesh of the fish.

Allison McDowell and Gary Jonas, newcomers to the event who recently opened The Farm on Adderley in Ditmars Park, made a strong showing with two of chef Tom Kearney's dishes: a brittle chip (topped with briny smoked bluefish and sweetened with an apple-onion relish) and a chewy date filled with goat cheese and a toasted pane. While the date looked like nothing special, I noticed people gathering around their table for seconds and thirds.

The flaky, sesame-topped "bureks," offered by chef Vittorio Arvini of Miriam, another Park Slope eatery, were crisp and light with a well-seasoned center of roasted eggplant, feta cheese and basil. A light dip of tahini with a cilantro and parsley freshened the works.

Among the abundance of chicken dishes were two standouts: Ken Deiner, the chef and owner of Bay Ridge's Amelia Ristorante, presented a roast "chicken Aurora." Deiner topped pieces of the bird's tender breast with roasted red peppers and grilled eggplant, then added a bit of house-made mozzarella and a light, boozy chardonnay tomato sauce. Even after its long rest in the chafing dish, the sauce lost none of its brightness.

Midwood's Footprints Cafe brought an outstanding jerk chicken to the works. Chef Basil Jones's hens were moist and crusted with enough spices to ignite a slow flame in my mouth.

On the sweet side

Chef Benjamin Granger — who owns Bierkraft, a beer and gourmet provision shop on Fifth Avenue in Park Slope — teamed up with chef Jean-Francois Bonnet of Tumbador Chocolate to present an unbeatable trio of ale, sharp cheese and one of the best chocolates I've ever tried: the Tumbador salted caramel. The candy's balance of bitter cocoa to salt is addictive.

Pastry chef Katherine Robinson and owner Melissa Murphy of Sweet Melissa Patisserie (now with locations on Court Street and Park Slope) offered slices of their rich, nut-to-



Yummy memories: (Clockwise from top) Among the highlights of Monday night's "Brooklyn Eats" festival were Gary Jonas, chef Tom Kearney and Allison McDowell of The Farm on Adderley; Ricca's Stephanie Nirvan serving up lotus root fries with chipotle mayonnaise; and Sweet Melissa's wedding cake by Katie Robinson.

sweet cakes. Their almond layers filled with passion fruit curd and iced with passion fruit butter had a luscious tart-sweet edge that made eating just one bite — something I promised myself I'd do before approaching their table — impossible. Their chocolate devil's food cake frosted with peanut butter cream posed the same problem.

You have to love a pastry chef who uses a beautiful e.e. cummings's poem as part of her advertising promotion. After a taste of wholehearted Eric Kalick's "traditional style" rugelach, made with bittersweet chocolate, currants, walnuts and English orange marmalade, I knew that her cookies were crafted with as much love as cummings's glorious writing. To Kalick of Eric's Rugelach & Baking Co., I say, "I carry your rugelach (I carry you in my heart — and on my thighs)."

I waited on line to taste the Brooklyn Ice Cream Factory's "mocha java chocolate chunk mini-cones," and it was worth it. Fulton Ferry's ice cream maven, Mark Thompson, knows how

to churn up a mean batch with just the right touch of bitter coffee flavor.

For the past five years, the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce has sponsored the Brooklyn Eats Scholarships. The \$1000 awards are given to three outstanding students enrolled in the Hospitality Management baccalaureate program at the New York City College of Technology, CUNY on Jay Street. This year's winners are Veronica Maldonado, Rhonda Roudon and Jade Nwabuko. The trio, under the guidance of Professor Louise Hoffman, presented "City Tech's Wild Raspberry Cake," a recipe they created for the occasion. The gorgeous confection of moist vanilla cake, iced with white chocolate raspberry ganache and frosted with French buttercream, tasted just as good as it looked.

Until next time, when Brooklyn Eats turns 11, happy chowing. For more information about these restaurants, check out our complete guide to Brooklyn Eats 2006 at www.brooklynpapers.com.

What's in store

Finding a good sandwich in Williamsburg, especially one made with house-baked bread, isn't easy. So Dan Cipriani, the owner of the Lodge, a casual eatery in the neighborhood, and The Tainted Lady, a bar that sits beside it, thought it was time to give the locals what they craved.

In June, he opened the Lodge General Store, a shop that functions as a gourmet pantry, coffee and juice bar and take-out counter. "We bake all the breads and desserts and roast all the meats here in our kitchen," Cipriani says. "There's none of that deli stuff."

Most of the ingredients he uses are organic. "That's one reason our sandwiches are such a big deal," he adds. And he's aware of the many vegetar-

ians and vegans in the area, so for every turkey club (house-baked white bread, roasted turkey, avocado, bacon and tomato), there's a non-meat version like the "Life Tainted" (pictured), a club that employs "tempeh" (soybean cake) in place of the meat.

All the coffee brewed on the premises is fair trade and organic. In keeping with the Lodge's ski-themed interior, its offspring sports a similar plaster ceiling, unfinished wood walls and aged, hardwood floors as the parent ship. The Lodge General Store (318 Grand St. at Havermeyer Street in Williamsburg) accepts cash only. Sandwiches: \$4-\$7; salads start at \$6.50. The store is open from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. For more information, call (718) 486-9402. — Tina Barry

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Wobbed up Billyburg

Martin Scorsese sticks close to home for shooting of 'Departed'

By Karen Butler
for The Brooklyn Papers

Since legendary New York filmmaker Martin Scorsese is a notorious stickler for detail and authenticity, fans may be shocked to find how much of his new Boston-set drama, "The Departed," was actually staged in Brooklyn.

While most of the gangster flick's exterior scenes were shot in Beantown and surrounding Braintree, Quincy and Dorchester, many of the interiors were created and lensed on a soundstage at the Marcy Avenue Armory in Williamsburg, after a production design crew was dispatched to Massachusetts to study and copy real apartments, police station offices, and more.

So, why did the "GoodFellas" and "Mean Streets" director decide to shoot his latest mob saga here instead of where the story is set?

For one thing, says producer Grahm King, the 64-year-old Scorsese still lives in Manhattan and likes to work close to home when he can. But King admits the city also made the filmmakers an offer they couldn't refuse: a tax incentive if they brought the production to the Big Apple.

"We wanted to shoot somewhere that was more central to Marty," King told GO Brooklyn. "We looked at the old naval base down in Brooklyn, and since it was all in-docks, it just made sense. It was easier to shoot it there. And there was a little bit of a financial advantage — the tax break — as well."

"It was very successful," he said. "The issue being as Marty makes movies, everything is always authentic, whether it's inside or outside."

Based on the 2002 Hong Kong thriller, "Infernal Affairs," "The Departed" retains much of the original film's story, but moves the action to contemporary Boston, where Frank Costello, a crime lord loosely based on real-life Irish-American gangster Whitey Bulger



Gaelic gangster: Jack Nicholson gets his Irish up as Boston mob boss Frank Costello and Matt Damon plays his protégé Colin Sullivan in Martin Scorsese's new film, "The Departed."

(played by Oscar-winning actor Jack Nicholson) rules the roost.

Meanwhile, Costello's young protégé, Colin Sullivan (Matt Damon), is quickly moving up the ranks of the Massachusetts State Police and reporting everything he sees and hears to his mentor, even as he has been charged with bringing Costello down.

At the same time, rookie cop Billy Costigan (Leonardo DiCaprio) has been sent undercover to work for and help build a case against Costello. As both men suspect there is a traitor in their midst,

they race to uncover the other's identity before his own is revealed.

"[The Departed] scribe Bill Monahan put down a way of life, a way of thinking, an attitude, a cultural look at the world, really, a very, very enclosed society, and that's what I responded to. I think," Scorsese breathlessly told reporters at a recent press conference. "Taking from the Hong Kong trilogy, Wai Keng Lau's film, you know, that's the device. And it's the plot; that idea. The concept of the two informers and being totally — whether I like it or not — drawn to stories that have to do with trust and betrayal. I found that I kept being drawn back to the script and to the project."

While most of the actors in the film devoted countless hours to perfecting the difficult, Southern accent, "Good Will Hunting" star and Boston native

Matt Damon was able to devote his time to developing his character by hanging out with Boston police officers.

Damon says he was so gung-ho about the part that he even went with police to raid a crack house, although he insists he didn't do anything heroic during the outing.

"I'm sure I was in no real danger," assured Damon. "They brought twice as many cops as they do on those raids, and I was in the back of the line with my bullet-proof vest on... and I didn't go until they cleared the house, but I got to see them do it."

"Did you ever see 'The Hard Way,' with Michael J. Fox?" Damon joked, referring to the 1991 comedy, in which Fox played an actor shadowing a real-life cop to prepare for a movie role.

See DEPARTED on page 11

CINEMA

"The Departed" is now playing at the Pavilion Cinema (188 Prospect Park West at 14th Street in Park Slope (718) 369-0838), Cobble Hill Cinema (225 Court St. at Butler Street in Cobble Hill (718) 364-4953), AMC Loews Kings Plaza (5201 Kings Plaza at Flatbush Avenue in Marine Park (800) 336-3244) and Linden Boulevard Multiplex Cinemas (2784 Linden Boulevard at Drew Street in East New York (718) 277-0303).

(Leonardo DiCaprio) has been sent undercover to work for and help build a case against Costello. As both men suspect there is a traitor in their midst,

'Little' tidbit

With the birth of his own son this summer, Greenpoint actor Patrick Wilson says he understands a little better the stay-at-home dad he plays in the new film adaptation of Tom Perrotta's novel, "Little Children."

"Actors have such a different schedule and different lifestyle [than most other parents]," the 33-year-old Virginia native told reporters in Manhattan recently. "When you're not working, you're around all day long. When you're working, you're gone all day long... I think some actors are very lucky, like [my 'Little Children' co-star Kate Winslet, pictured at left with Wilson] being able to have children and then taking time off. And then I was the same way this summer, being able to stay home. So, that's a

luxury I don't think we take for granted. Family time is super-important."

Although in the film, Wilson strays from his documentary filmmaker wife (played by Brooklyn Heights native Jennifer Connelly).

So, did Wilson and his real-life wife, actress Dagmara Dominczyk, ever consider moving out of the city when they decided to have children?

"My wife is Polish," said Wilson, star of "Angels in America" and "The Phantom of the Opera." "It's important for us to be in a predominantly Polish neighborhood to have the boy brought up for the first few years around a lot of his own people."

"Little Children" is now playing in theaters. —Karen Butler



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Where to G... ..

Continued from page 10...

presents "Umogo: How an African Village is Battering Violence Against Women." Rebecca Lofredo and the women of the African village Umogo discuss strategies for combating violence against women in Kenya and around the world. Performance by the Brooklyn Women's Chorus, 5:30, 7:30 p.m. 53 Prospect Park West, (718) 768-0972.

Thurs., Oct. 12

FALL FOCUS: Brooklyn Botanic Garden offers a garden work shop, "Gardens Within the Garden: Fall Folia on Annual and Perennial Borders," 5:30, 7:30 p.m. 100 51st Ave., workshop: "Roses in Fall: Learn to plant, compose and simplify your watercolor painting. Paint this flower in a variety of containers, with fruit and other still life objects. \$54, \$49 members. 10 am to 3:30 p.m. Call for reservations, 1000 Washington Ave. (718) 622-7200.

HEALTH ALERT: Lutheran Health Care offers a talk, "Maintenance of Blood Pressure," 1:30 pm to 3 pm, Harbor Hill Housing, 5314 Second Ave., (718) 630-8316. Free.

LUPUS AWARENESS: New York Methodist Hospital hosts a lecture on lupus, 5 pm to 7:30 pm, 505 South St. (718) 780-5367. Free.

BREAST CANCER: Maimonides Cancer Center hosts a panel discussion on the latest research and treatment protocols. Panel features cancer experts in medical oncology, mammography, radiation oncology, surgery, obstetrics and gynecology and complementary medicine. 6:30 pm, 6300 Eighth Ave., (718) 378-3788. Free.

RECEPTION: Art exhibit "Footprints: Portrait of a Brooklyn Neighborhood." View diverse perspectives of Atlantic Yards, 6 pm to 9 pm, Grand Space, 778 Broadway, (347) 255-4335. Free.

BAMINCEANITE: presents "Hellenian." Today: "The Shooting" (1944), 5:15 pm, children and seniors, 7:30 pm and 9:30 pm, 30 Lafayette Ave., (718) 777-7714. www.brooklyn.org.

BARGE MUSIC: presents a classical music program featuring works by Bach, Beethoven, Medtner and Chopin, 5:30 pm, 5300 Lexington Ave., (718) 630-8316. Free.

BARNES AND NOBLE: Delegation and signing with Jason Solari. He traces the process of designation by drawing on public records and interviews conducted with white Southerners as they traced migration brought on by Brown v. Board of Education. 7:30 pm, 267 Seventh Ave., (718) 924-1966. Free.

NEXT WALK: "Myrcenean," 7:30 pm, Also, "Nine Hills One Valley," 7:30 pm. BAM Outdoors with Ratan Thampi, 6 pm, 54 for Friends of BAM. See Set, Oct. 14.

Fri., Oct. 13

BAMINCEANITE: presents "An Independent Spirit: Helen Helmen." Today: "Ride in the Whirlwind" (1965), 5:15 pm, children and seniors, 7:30 pm, 30 Lafayette Ave., (718) 777-7714. www.brooklyn.org.

RECEPTION: "A Group Art Studio presents 'Paralaxades: Parallaxes,' a group art studio presentation, 6:30 pm to 10 pm, 224 Rivington St. (718) 388-3388. Free.

BARGE MUSIC: presents a classical music program featuring works by Bach, Beethoven, Medtner and Chopin, 5:30 pm, 5300 Lexington Ave., (718) 630-8316. Free.

OUTDOOR CINEMA: Narrows Independent Cinema presents film "War of the Worlds" (1975), 9 pm. (In reference to a below 40 degrees, film will be postponed to select Shore Road, between 99th and 72nd streets, (718) 748-0083. www.narrows.org. Free.

NEXT WALK: "Myrcenean," 7:30 pm, Also, "Nine Hills One Valley," 7:30 pm. See Set, Oct. 14.

RECEPTION: James Madison University invites all 1950s graduates to a weekend reunion. For information, visit www.jamesmadisonalumni.org or call (718) 654-0229.

DANCE: Aerial Dance Company performs "Updraft: A Spiraling of Movement," 7:30 pm. See Set, Oct. 14.

Sat., Oct. 14

Jewish Festival of Simchat Torah begins at sundown

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY TOUR: Learn about the history of Brooklyn's changing landscape firsthand. Take a hike through some of Prospect Park's least explored regions, including the second highest point in Brooklyn, Lookout Hill. Tour is moderately strenuous. 9:00 am to 11:30 am. Meet at Audubon Center, inside the park's Vanderbilt Street and Prospect Park Southbound entrance. (718) 789-2622. ext. 10.

BIRD WATCHING CRUISE: Prospect Park Audubon Center hosts a cruise aboard the electric boat Independence. Tour the Lullwater, a scenic habitat for flora and fauna. \$10, \$6 kids. Binoculars provided. 10 am to 12:40 pm. Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 287-3400.

WEEKLY WALK: Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment takes a walk around this neighborhood. See articles from the archeological dig. Also, take the original Hunter's Head houses (additional \$3), 5 pm, 58 seniors and students. 1 pm to 3:30 pm. Meet in front of Boys and Girls High School, Fulton Street and Suydam Avenue. (718) 788-8052. ext. 208.

FORT GREENE WALK: New York City & a Native offers a walk for meeting friends and Clinton Hill. \$15, 1:30 pm to 4 pm. Call for meeting location. (718) 953-5737. www.nyccitywalk.com.

WALKING TOUR: Maurice Lorence hosts the Metro Tour Service, taking a walk through the gardens, Clinton Hill and Brooklyn Heights, 5:25 pm to 7 pm. Meet at Morris Park, Prospect Brooklyn, 33 Adams St. (718) 699-4547.

PERFORMANCE

BARGE MUSIC: presents a classical music program featuring works by Haydn, Prokofiev, Newman and Chopin, 5:30 pm, 5300 Lexington Ave., (718) 630-8316. Free.

CONCERT SERIES: Music from Good Shepherd series presents the chamber quartet Paschke, Independent Spirit Quartet, 6 pm, Good Shepherd Church, 205 East 5th St. and Broadway, (718) 980-2800.

ST. ANNE'S WAREHOUSE: presents "Hellenian." Today: "Flight to Hell" (1944), 5:15 pm, children and seniors, 7:30 pm and 9:30 pm, 30 Lafayette Ave., (718) 777-7714. www.brooklyn.org.

CRATS FEST: at 14th Street in Park Square, 11 pm to 5 am. See Set, Oct. 14.

BAMINCEANITE: presents "An Independent Spirit: Helen Helmen." Today: "Flight to Hell" (1944), 5:15 pm, children and seniors, 7:30 pm and 9:30 pm, 30 Lafayette Ave., (718) 777-7714. www.brooklyn.org.

and Rosa, \$35, \$30 seniors, 7:30 pm, Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River, (718) 624-2083.

DANCE: The Brooklyn Carroll School presents Aerial Dance Company of Movement, "Sis," 10 students, 7:30 pm, 181 Lincoln Pl., www.brooklynart.com. (718) 534-6667.

NEXT WAVE: Brooklyn Academy of Music presents "Myrcenean," 7:30 pm, 5300 Lexington Ave., (718) 630-8316. Free.

COMEDY: Theatre Out presents "Ploof! A Dive in the Hudson," at the DUMBO Arts Festival. Interactive 40-minute cruise-comedy focuses on public transportation, security, emergency procedures and love. Cruise departs from Fulton Ferry landing every 30 minutes, from 7 pm to 8:30 pm. For information, visit www.theatreout.org. Free.

ST. ANNE'S WAREHOUSE: presents Les Freres Chorale's "Hell House." Part institution, part performance, part haunted house, 8 pm, 14th Street, 205 East 5th St., (718) 980-2800.

GALLERY PLAYERS: presents the musical "Livestock," 5:15, \$14 kids and seniors, 8 pm, 199 14th St., (718) 352-3523. www.galleryplayers.com.

CHILDREN

CHILDREN'S THEATRE: Heights Playhouse presents "The Lion King," 5:15, \$11 and 26 Wilcox Pl., (718) 888-8888.

ART MAKING: Brooklyn Museum hosts "Art Fairs." Explore the galleries, enjoy a family activity and create art. Appropriate for ages 4 to 7. 58 Union St., 120 kids younger than 12 and members 11 pm to 5 pm, (718) 638-5000.

HALLOWEEN COSTUME SHAP: Old Stone House and The Park Slope Civic Council host a swap meet. To get a costume, bring a costume. First come, first served. 11 pm to 1 am, 100 Myrtle Park, Fifth Avenue and Third Street, (718) 788-8052. Free.

OTHER

CONSUMER BANKING DAY: NYC Comptroller William C. Thompson, Jr. speaks at 6 pm, 230 E. 150th Bedford Ave., Reservations required, 212-669-8309. Free.

HARVEST FEST: 415 Green Community Garden hosts its fall event featuring live music, readings and pot luck dinner. 10 am to 4 pm, Ratan Thampi, 54 for Friends of BAM. See Set, Oct. 14.

CRATS FEST: at 14th Street in Park Square, 11 pm to 5 am. See Set, Oct. 14.

MICRO MUSIC: hosts its annual Harvest Fair. Freely installations, visual moments and live performances. 10 am to 5 pm, 58 Union St., 120 kids younger than 12 and members 11 pm to 5 pm, (718) 638-5000.

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DEPARTED...

Continued from page 9

"That was me. 'Hey guys, do I get a gun?' They were like, 'Absolutely not! Shut up!'"

Meanwhile, it sounds like the most dangerous part of filming "The Departed" for Leonardo DiCaprio was working with eccentric, acclaimed co-star Jack Nicholson.

"As far as Jack was concerned, we kind of expected the unexpected... For me, there were a number of different scenes where I had no idea what was going to happen," he said.

"Titanic" and "The Aviator" star recalled. DiCaprio says one of the scariest moments of the shoot was when he heard Nicholson tell Scorsese he thought he should be more intimidating in his scenes with the younger actor.

"I came in the next day and the prop guy

told me, 'Well, be careful. He's got a fire extinguisher, a gun, some matches and a bottle of whiskey,'" DiCaprio related.

He went on to say he knew Nicholson was a professional actor, but admits his unpredictability helped DiCaprio play a guy who is in "a constant, 24-hour panic attack" about being found out.

"It gives you—I don't want to say a sense of fear as an actor, but—as a character, a whole new dynamic," he noted. "I think we all knew that if [Nicholson] came on-board, that he would have to make of grab the reins with this character and let him be freeform, and we all were completely sort of ready for that every day that we walked up on the set."

"You know, he had a short run," continued DiCaprio. "He filmed his scenes and then he left, but those were some of the most intense moments of the film, for me, certainly, and, as a human being, as a person, there were some memories that I will never forget."



Beantown epic: Director Martin Scorsese with stars Leonardo DiCaprio and Matt Damon on the set of "The Departed."

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Compiled by Chiara V. Covan

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Wednesday: Jazz funk with Karin Okada and guests, 7 pm, FREE.

Thursday: Jazz funk with Karin Okada and guests, 7 pm

Cop shoots, kills man who threatened 2

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

A sharp-shooting cop gunned down a mentally ill man who was holding a knife against a woman's throat on Smith Street on Sept. 30.

Although he was hailed as a hero, 76th Precinct Police Officer Louis Gubitosi, an Iraq war veteran who grew up in Sunset Park, insisted he was just doing his job when he prevented the kidnapper from wounding his victim.

The man, 26-year-old Joseph Bernazzani, had already sliced one woman's neck dur-

ing a psychotic spree of violence that broke out just before 9 a.m.

Bernazzani took the bullet in the neck and was pronounced dead at Long Island College Hospital shortly after, police said.

The police officer involved in this shooting demonstrated the utmost professionalism under extraordinary circumstances, and in doing so, saved a woman's life," said Police Commissioner Ray Kelly.

A police source went further, saying that Gubitosi's shot required utmost confidence. Many cops would not have had

enough faith in themselves to shoot, the source said.

It's not clear what led to Bernazzani's outburst, but his family blamed officers at Long Island College Hospital for allowing him to leave the emergency room on Sept. 29

after he had gone there seeking treatment. Hospitals are required to keep patients who are considered a danger to themselves or others.

But he was discharged, and the next morning, his psychosis erupted on Smith

Street, near Butler Street, when he grabbed a 32-year-old woman by the neck and held a knife to her throat. Police soon arrived, surrounded by numerous 911 calls, surrounded the armed man and insisted he drop the weapon.

Instead, Bernazzani slashed the back of the victim's neck, pushed her aside and bolted toward Atlantic Avenue. A few blocks later, at Bulfinch Street, he grabbed a second victim, a 54-year-old woman, by her long brown hair and held his blade

to her throat. Police chased after him, surrounded Bernazzani again and demanded he drop the knife. Again he ignored their requests.

Gubitosi fired one shot, which proved to be enough. Both victims were taken to

Long Island College Hospital, in stable condition; the first hostage suffered a knife-wound on her neck, and the second woman was physically injured.

Police recovered the knife on Smith Street.

Affordable housing plan for Hook, Slope lots

for The Brooklyn Papers

Eight vacant lots in Red Hook and Park Slope will become homes to lower-

and middle-income families, as part of a citywide effort to increase affordable housing.

The construction is part of a Bloomberg Administration effort to transfer city-owned lots to private developers of afford-

able housing. In Red Hook, that means seven vacant, fenced-off eyesores on Columbia and Union

streets will no longer detract from the waterfront's burgeoning residential potential.

"We're pretty excited about it," said architect Herman Galvis, whose company, Columbia Street Partners, got the city contract to build on the seven Red Hook lots and one in Park Slope.

"This will give the area momentum." The seven condominium buildings will comprise roughly 40 units in total.

Retail space will also be integrated into the buildings, Galvis said.

Columbia Street Partners has done extensive work in Red Hook, which was part of their appeal to the Department of

Housing and Preservation Development, a spokesman said.

Under the city's New Foundations program, selected developers are eligible for city subsidies after purchasing such vacant lots at a fire-sale price.

But Columbia Street Partners is not getting city subsidies, Galvis said. Rather, the sale of units to families earning between \$36,700 and \$92,170 will subsidize the units for lower-income families—who can earn less than \$50,000 a year.

"This is the best deal for the taxpayer," said HPD spokesman, Neil Coleman.

Construction will begin next year, Galvis said.

—Christie Rizk

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Clarifying last week's Atlantic Yards coverage

One of last week's front page stories, "Council of Nubers: Yards not so bad," reported that the Council of Nubers Neighborhoods, a coalition of more than three dozen community groups, had found flaws with the state's draft environmental impact statement for the Atlantic Yards project, yet not so many flaws that the DEIS needed to be scrapped.

We reported this as a result of interviews with DEIS analysts hired by CBN under a \$200,000 grant from the state and city. The people we interviewed had been instructed by the CBN to not comment on the Atlantic Yards project as a whole, but merely speak about their analysis of flaws in the DEIS.

As a result, we went to press Thursday afternoon with a story that conveyed the experts' concerns about the DEIS, but mostly reflected our mistaken impression that the CBN would let its experts' analysis suffice and that the group would not comment on the larger question of whether Atlantic Yards should be approved or rejected.

But on Friday morning, well after we could amend our printed story, the CBN did

issue a strong denunciation of the DEIS, one that called for Atlantic Yards to be halted unless the document was abandoned and rewritten.

As Terry Urban, a co-chair of the CBN, told us, "Our position was defined on Friday: The DEIS cannot be approved in its current form, and therefore, at this time, the proposed project cannot go forward."

So on Friday, as a result of the CBN's clarified public position, we immediately posted a new story on our Web site at <http://www.brooklynpapers.com>.

Correction

The same print version also reported that architect Douglas Hamilton's "Pacific Plan"—an alternative use of the Vanderbilt Yards—would not require the condemnation of existing buildings using the state's power of eminent domain.

Hamilton's plan would reuse many existing buildings that Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards plan would remove—but the "Pacific Plan" would, in fact, require that at least one be condemned. The Brooklyn Papers regrets the error.

PROMENADE...

Continued from page 1
of the Brooklyn Heights Association. "I have trouble imagining how [a connection] could work."

The study was funded by a \$1 million federal grant secured in 2002 by Rep. Nydia Velázquez (D-Cobble Hill). Funding to implement any DBWLC recommendations would not come from the Brooklyn Bridge Park existing \$150-million construction budget, but would require a new allocation.

A spokesman for the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation told The Brooklyn Papers that the agency does support improving public access to the proposed park and waterfront development. But he said it was too early to weigh in on the specifics of DBWLC's just-initiated study.

The study will also look at the possibility of creating a

new entrance to the Clark Street subway station at the park.
The link between the station

might be created by converting a ventilation shaft that opens at the foot of the proposed park into a station entrance.

WATERFRONT

Continued from page 1

ing from Atlantic Avenue along Columbia Street and into Red Hook — that includes a working cargo port surrounded by maritime-themed shops, a 250-room hotel, art galleries and a park.

"There are many obstacles ahead," said Badillo. "We have a good idea, but it's too early to know how the city will hear it." The city Economic Development Corporation's plan for includes far less housing than Badillo's, whose development would include affordable units.

One proposal favored by EDC planners includes 350 units of mixed-income housing on the western side of Columbia Street between De-
gaw Street and Atlantic Avenue as well as a Brooklyn Brewery facility and beer garden on a pier at the foot of Hamilton Avenue now occupied by the container port, which would be moved.

Brooklyn Brewery President Steve Hindy dismissed Badillo's plan as "unrealistic." "There is plenty of housing going up all around the waterfront," Hindy said this week. "The real need now is for jobs."

Matt Yates, director of operations for American Stevedoring, the company that runs the container port, echoed Hindy's concern.

"Badillo's plan is crazy because we are actually adding jobs here," Yates said, claiming that ASB is about to ink a new deal with an international shipping line to add 100 full-time jobs at the port.

He argued that proposals like both Badillo's and the city's are driving away potential business from the waterfront.

City Councilman David Vasey (D-Brooklyn Heights) said the new housing would be a strain on the existing residential population and endanger a greenway planned along Columbia Street.

"This area [is] reserved for parkland," said Milton Puryear, a spokesman for the Brooklyn Greenway Initiative. "If housing goes there, people will have to cross a busy bike trail to get to their houses. To put housing there shows [the EDC] has no

understanding what [the community wants]."

A fifth grader present at a Community Board 6 hearing this week echoed Puryear with a high-pitched proclamation: "There are lots of kids and dogs in the neighborhood who need a place to run around," said the boy, Ari Anderson.

BANK

Continued from page 1

But Esquire is different. The bank even donated \$10,000 to the trial lawyers' association. "There isn't another bank that's ever given money to ATLA," said Tom Henderson, who serves on the bank's board of directors and was the CEO of the association for 17 years.

"Not even banks that were our clients," added Biedler. Esquire may specialize in banking for trial lawyers, but it will also serve more traditional purposes for the average Jane who hasn't passed the bar, like checking and savings accounts, and commercial and real-estate loans.

The arrival of Esquire could be further proof that the term "Court Street lawyer" has become as antiquated a notion as the Mom and Pop drugstore. Calling someone a "Court Street lawyer" isn't even an insult anymore, now that the district has gained legitimacy as a community of top-notch law firms.

Indeed, earlier this year, the city bar association chose Barry Kamins, a criminal defense lawyer on Court Street, as its first president from outside of Manhattan.

So maybe times really are changing. Then again, maybe not.

At least one dignity at last week's event revealed in Court Street's steady image.

"If you like white-shoe law firms, stay in Manhattan," said Borough President Markovits, playing his role to the hilt. "But if you're looking for the biggest settlement, come to Brooklyn."

The Brooklyn Papers

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Call her Smart Grandmom

MOVE OVER, Smartmom. There's a new mom on Seventh Avenue and she's taking over your turf. And guess what? It's Diaper Diva, your very own twin sister.

That's right, Diaper Diva — and her incredibly well-dressed 2-year-old, Ducky — are finding their way in Mommyland, even taking over Smartmom's bench at CommMuffCo, and making mommyfriends at Music Together, Tots on the Go, and swim class at Eastern Athletic.

As a result, Smartmom is beginning to feel left out and a little old (even if she is actually two minutes younger than her twin sister).

Just the other day, Diaper Diva introduced Smartmom to one of her new friends. "This is my sister," she told her friend. "She has a 9-year-old and a 15-year-old."

"A 15-year-old?" exclaimed Bubbly Mom, Diaper Diva's new mommyfriend. Like, how could anyone have a child THAT old?

Smartmom wanted to be offended, but she quickly noticed that every time she opened her mouth, she said something that reminded her of the know-it-all jaded parents she used to hate.

To another of Diaper Diva's new mommyfriends, whose 2-year-old just got a chic new haircut, Smartmom blabbed:

"You're lucky your kid still listens to you about his hair. My son only lets his friends cut his hair and it's always in his face."

Open mouth, insert Elephantine shoe. No mother of a 2-year-old wants to hear about the trials and tribulations of life with a teen. That's too much information, thank you.

Diaper Diva smoothly steered that conversation back to toddlers. A discussion ensued about the comparative merits of Loli's versus Grown Blossom — two Park Slope stores that Smartmom never had when SHE was a young mom!

Later, strolling down Seventh Avenue, Diaper Diva ran into three (count 'em, three) new friends on one block. In the same amount of time, Smartmom ran into no one.

SMART mom

By Louise Crawford

Nada. Not even one vaguely familiar face from the PS 121 PTA. In her heyday, her record was 10 friends per block from Third Street to Union.

In front of Joe's Pizza (which will forever be known as Big Pizza Cafe), to true Shoppers, Smartmom waited impatiently, while Diaper Diva chatted with yet another new friend. This one had just gotten word that her kid had been accepted into the Beth Elomim Early Childhood Center.

"What days?" Diaper Diva asked excitedly. "Mondays and Tuesdays."

"We're in the same class!" Smartmom wanted to say: Your KIDS are in the same class, not you. But she tried to be civil. She couldn't think of anything to add to their sidewalk squeal: It's been five years since the Oh So Feisty One was in preschool. Smartmom was fairly certain they didn't want to hear about the fourth grade city-wide tests.

Clearly, Diaper Diva is excited about everything having to do with Ducky — and the first experience in preschool is one very big deal for both of them. Not since college do you make as many friends as quickly as when your kid starts preschool. In the months to come, Diaper Diva will probably know more people in Park Slope than she ever imagined.

Maybe even more than Smartmom.

ATELY, SMARTMOM is feeling threatened. She wonders if Diaper Diva will have time for her and her brood as she shifts to her own nuclear unit. After years of being the world's most loving aunt and supportive sister, Diaper Diva is a mommy now.

Despite being identical twins, Smartmom and her sister have led different lives. Smartmom got married when she was 30, while Diaper Diva played the single scene for another 12 years.

Teen Spirit was born when Smartmom was 33, and Diaper Diva devoted herself full throttle to her career in the film business. She married when she was 42 and endured years of infertility. Ducky, who was adopted in Russia, arrived on U.S. soil on Diaper Diva's 47th birthday (Smartmom's birthday, too, because, remember, they're twins).

So now it's Diaper Diva turn: her adventures in Mommyland are just beginning just as Smartmom is on the verge of sending Teen Spirit to college (hopefully).

A few years later, OSFO will go. Then what? The empty nest? Retirement? Golf?

Not likely — and let's not get ahead of ourselves here.

While Smartmom is fretting about teenage sex, marijuana use and PSAT scores, Diaper Diva is trying to figure out how to assemble that ridiculously complicated Playmobil farm set that Ducky got on her second birthday.

But she figured it out (with OSFO's help). Alas, Diaper Diva doesn't really need Smartmom's help anymore. Truth is, she's way more efficient than Smartmom ever was and always remembers to bring a Tupperware container of Goldfish crackers to the playground AND a first aid kit.

She also knows all the songs on Dan Zanes' "Rocket Ship

Beach" by heart; she stares lovingly at Ducky like she's the Second Coming; she thinks nothing of leaving her stroller blocking the baby wipes aisle at Meow Food.

And now, she has no time to be Smartmom's shoulder to cry on. Worse, the twin sisters can barely have a five-minute kitch-sit at CommMuffCo without Diaper Diva running into a half-dozen mommy friends (and interrupting Smartmom's monologue). Sigh.

But Smartmom should not despair as Diaper Diva makes her way as a parent and mommyfriend to half of Park Slope. Eventually, when the chips are down, Diaper Diva will still rely on her almost-over-the-hill, slightly jaded sis every now and then. She will, right?

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